

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02731 261327Z  
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 SP-02 IO-06  
NSCE-00 OES-02 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 /039 W  
-----026662 261456Z /45  
P 261059Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8833

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2731

LIMDIS

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: SNAR TH  
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD LEADERSHIP SITUATION

REF: BANGKOK 2390

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH DCM AND NARCOTICS ADVISER BRILLIANT, POLICE MAJOR GENERAL CHAWALIT GAVE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF STATE OF PLAY RE OFFICE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (ONCB) SECRETARY GENERAL'S POST.
2. ACCORDING TO CHAWALIT, PRIMIN KRIANGSAK RAN INTO THE STRONGEST OPPOSITION TO APPOINTING GENERAL WITHUN YAWASAT TO SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION AND HAS HAD TO WITHDRAW HIS NAME. SENIOR NATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS, INCLUDING ADMIRAL SANGAT AND GENERALS YOT AND SERM, WERE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO WITHUN'S SELECTION. CHAWALIT SAID THAT WITHUN IS A MAN OF GREAT ABILITY AND AMBITION, BUT A HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE WITHIN THE MILITARY. THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE SENIOR GENERALS OVER LETTING HIM BACK INTO A HIGHLY VISIBLE POLITICAL POSITION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02731 261327Z

3. CHAWALIT INDICATED THAT SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN AND HIMSELF, BELIEVED WITHUN WOULD HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING SELECTION. PHAO AND CHAWALIT HAD WORKED WITH WITHUN BEFORE AND WERE CONVINCED HE WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST MAN FOR THE JOB. AT THIS POINT CHAWALIT SAID THERE IS NO INDICATION WHOM PRIMIN WILL SELECT. HE SAID THAT ORIGINALLY, BEFORE WITHUN'S NAME CAME UP, CHAWALIT HAD HIMSELF BEEN CONSIDERED FOR THE JOB.

AND, AT THIS TIME, HE SUSPECTS THAT HE AND GENERAL PHAO ARE AMONG THE LEADING CANDIDATES. BETWEEN THEM, CHAWALIT BELIEVES THE BEST DIVISION OF LABOR WOULD BE FOR PHAO TO REMAIN IN THE POLICE HIERARCHY AS HE IS NOW A LEADING CANDIDATE TO TAKE OVER AS COMMISSIONER FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION WHICH CONTROLS 10 POLICE DIVISIONS, INCLUDING NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION. CHAWALIT SAID HE HIMSELF WAS MUCH TOO JUNIOR FOR ANY SUCH POSITION WITHIN THE POLICE HIERARCHY, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE OVER AS NARCOTICS DIVISION CHIEF, IF DIVISION IS ESTABLISHED (AND IF CHAWALIT IS NOT ONCB SECRETARY GENERAL).

4. CHAWALIT SAID HZPIS LEAVING JAN 28 FOR GENEVA AND A MONTH'S STAY IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, HE HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO LET EVERYONE KNOW HIS ITINERARY IN EVENT HE IS TAPPED FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION.

5. COMMENT: IN ABOVE DISCUSSION CHAWALIT WAS OBVIOUSLY HOPING THAT HE WOULD IN FACT GET ONCB SECRETARY GENERAL SLOT, FOR WHICH HE IS THOROUGHLY QUALIFIED. INDEED, DURING A GOOD PART OF THE DISCUSSION HE WAS ANTICIPATING WHAT HE WOULD DO WITHIN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS AFTER RECEIVING SUCH AN APPOINTMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, HE AND GENERAL PHAO ARE CLOSE ASSOCIATES, AND OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT CHAWALIT'S REMARKS (PARA 3 ABOVE) LIKELY REFLECT WHAT HE AND PHAO HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED. AT SAME TIME CHAWALIT WAS VERY CAREFUL TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, SINCE WITHUN'S NOMINATION WAS REJECTED, CHAWALIT HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION AS TO PRIMIN'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 02731 261327Z

INTENTIONS.  
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO02731  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780038-1275  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaarqc.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d54a09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 78 BANGKOK 2390  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3712904  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD LEADERSHIP SITUATION  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d54a09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014